

Electronic Supplementary Information

Supramolecular Assemblies Controlled by Cucurbit[*n*]uril Size (*n* = 6, 7, 8 and 10)

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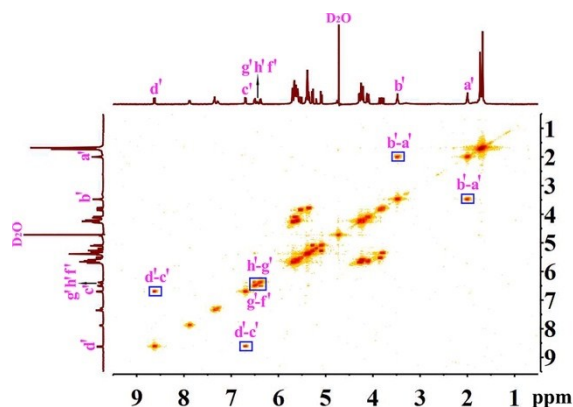


Figure S1. The COSY spectrum of **G** with 2.22 equivalents of TMeQ[6] in D₂O (400 MHz).

| | H _a | H _b | H _c | H _d | H _e | H _f | H _{gh} |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| free G | 1.97 | 3.40 | 6.64 | 7.92 | 5.21 | 7.27 | 7.37 |
| G with 1.00 equiv. TMeQ[6] | 2.01 | 3.49 | 6.71 | 8.65 | 4.74 | 6.39 | 6.52, 6.46 |
| field shift | -0.04 | -0.09 | -0.07 | -0.73 | 0.47 | 0.88 | 0.85, 0.91 |
| G with 1.00 equiv. Q[7] | 1.85 | 3.02 | 6.16 | 7.68 | 4.88 | 6.80 | 7.06 |
| field shift | 0.12 | 0.38 | 0.48 | 0.24 | 0.33 | 0.47 | 0.31 |

Table S1. ¹H NMR spectral changes observed for the **G**@TMeQ[6] system on addition of one equivalent of TMeQ[6] and the **G**@Q[7] system on addition of one equivalent of Q[7].

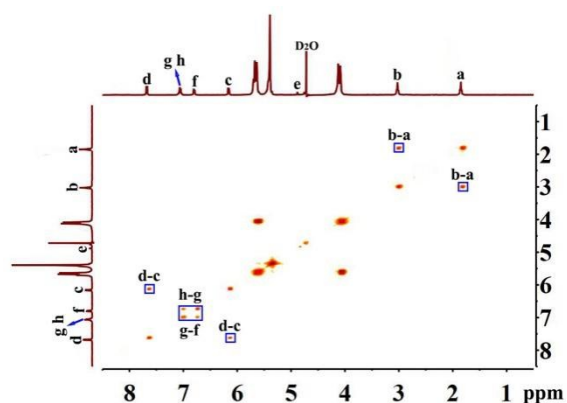


Figure S2. The COSY spectra of **G** with 1.706 equivalent of Q[7] in D₂O (400 MHz).

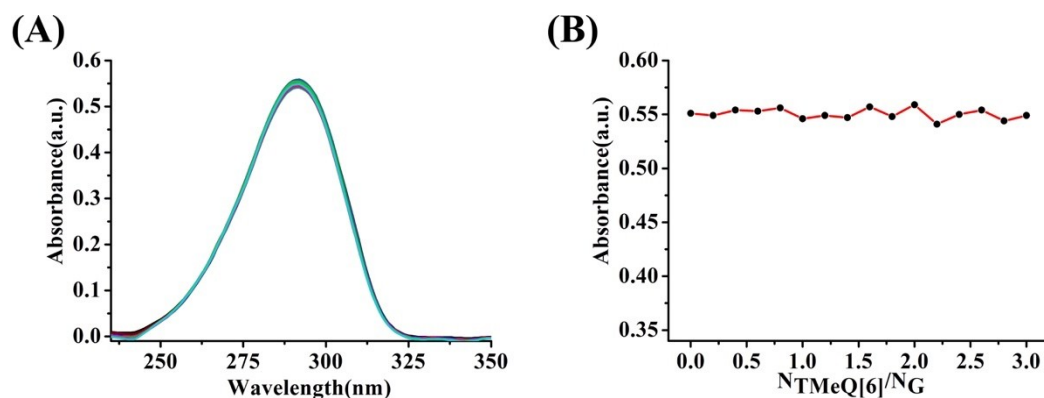


Figure S3. (Colour online) (A) Electronic absorption of **G** (2×10^{-5} mol L $^{-1}$) upon addition of increasing amounts (0, 0.2, 0.4, ..., 2.6, 2.8, 3.0 equivalents) of TMeQ[6]; (B) concentration and absorbance vs. $N_{\text{TMeQ[6]}}/N_{\text{G}}$ plots.

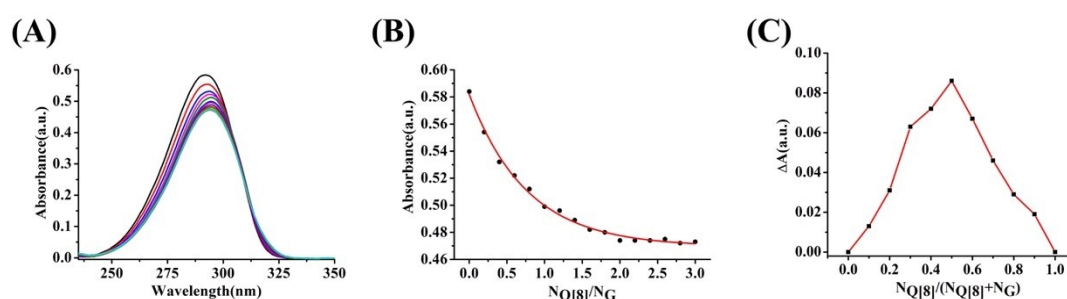


Figure S4. (Colour online) (A) Electronic absorption of **G** (2×10^{-5} mol L $^{-1}$) upon addition of increasing amounts (0, 0.2, 0.4, ..., 2.6, 2.8, 3.0 equivalents) of Q[8]; (B) concentration and absorbance vs. $N_{\text{Q[8]}}/N_{\text{G}}$ plots; (C) the corresponding $\Delta A - N_{\text{Q[8]}}/(N_{\text{Q[8]}} + N_{\text{G}})$ curves.

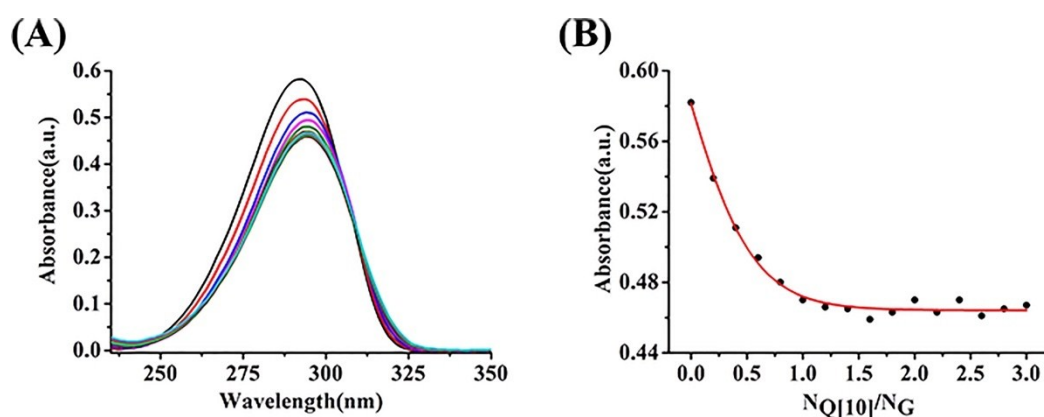


Figure S5. (Colour online) (A) Electronic absorption of **G** (2×10^{-5} mol L $^{-1}$) upon addition of increasing amounts (0, 0.2, 0.4, ..., 2.6, 2.8, 3.0 equivalents) of Q[10]; (B) concentration and absorbance vs. $N_{\text{Q[10]}}/N_{\text{G}}$ plots.

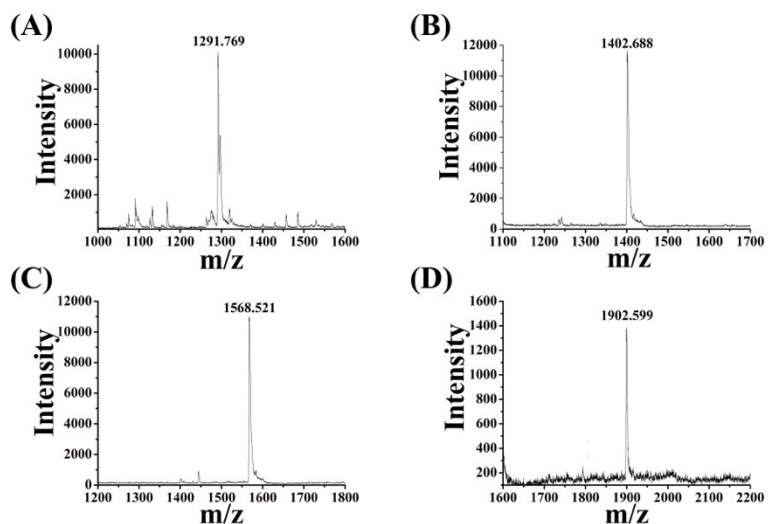


Figure S6. MALDI-TOF mass spectra of TMeQ[6]@G (A), Q[7]@G (B), Q[8]@G (C) and Q[10]@G (D).

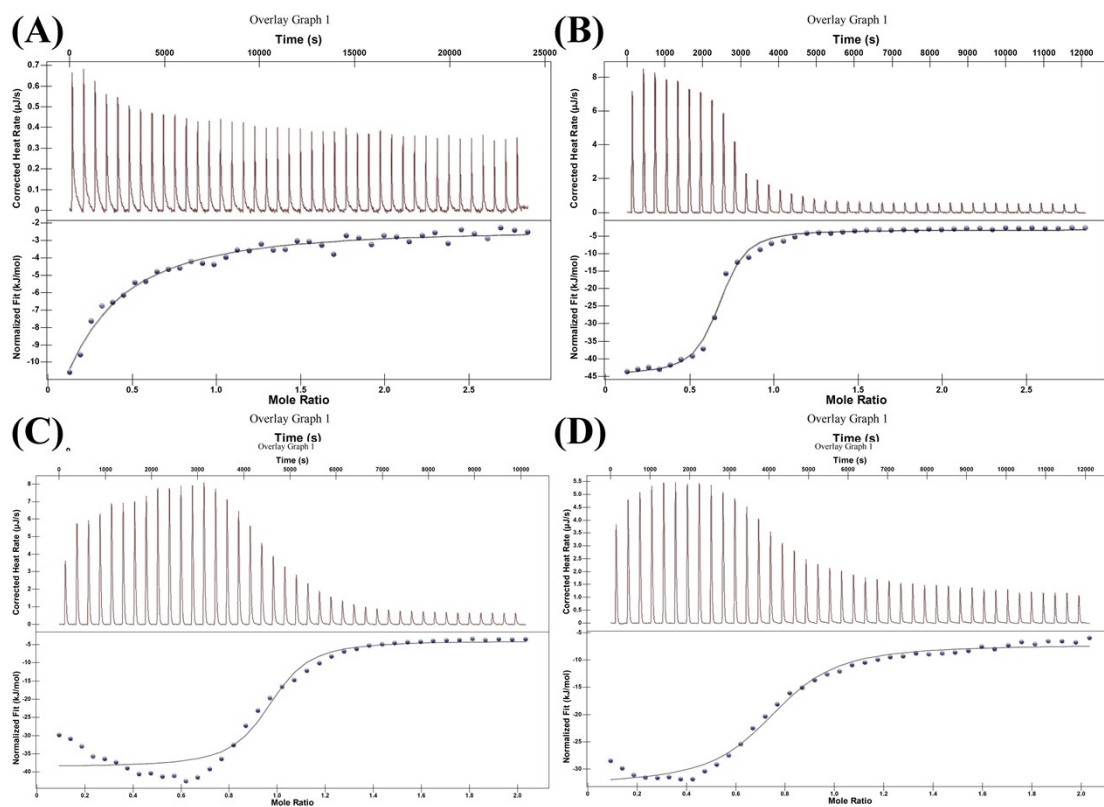


Figure S7. ITC data for the binding of G with Q[n] (TMeQ[6], Q[7], Q[8], Q[10]) in aqueous solution.

| Host | guest | K_a (M^{-1}) | Ref |
|---------|-------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Q[8] | g1 | 1.541×10^4 | 1 |
| | g2 | 4.714×10^5 | |
| | g3 | 8.477×10^5 | |
| | g4 | 5.541×10^6 | |
| | g5 | 5.597×10^6 | |
| | g6 | 3.333×10^6 | |
| TMeQ[6] | g2 | $(4.23 \pm 0.6) \times 10^5$ | 2 |
| | g3 | $(1.08 \pm 0.32) \times 10^6$ | |
| TMeQ[6] | G | $(1.98 \pm 0.5) \times 10^4$ | In this work |
| Q[7] | | $(1.07 \pm 0.4) \times 10^6$ | |
| Q[8] | | $(1.39 \pm 0.8) \times 10^6$ | |
| Q[10] | | $(3.03 \pm 0.6) \times 10^5$ | |

Table S2. Binding constant values of cucurbit[*n*]urils with some alkyl-substituted 4-pyrrolidinopyridinium salts by ITC. 4-(C_4H_8N) C_5H_5NRBr , R=Et (g1), *n*-butyl (g2), *n*-pentyl (g3), *n*-hexyl (g4), *n*-octyl (g5), *n*-dodecyl (g6).

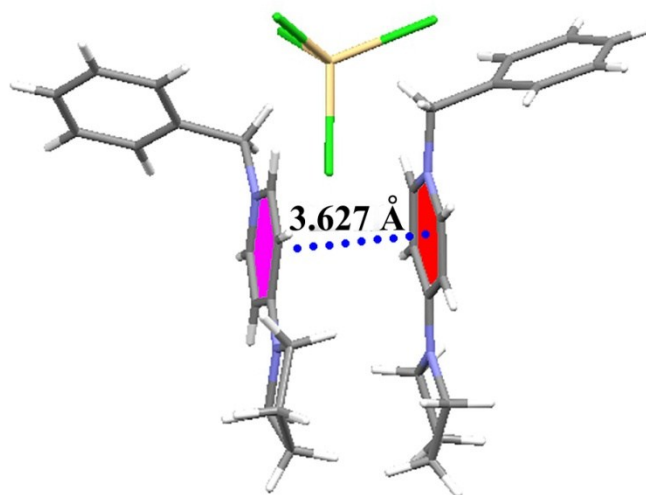


Figure S8. Single crystal X-ray structure of $[G_2][CdCl_4]$ showing a $\pi \dots \pi$ interaction.

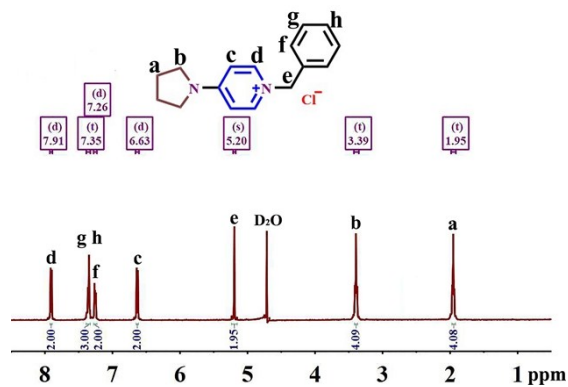


Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of **G** in D₂O (400 MHz).

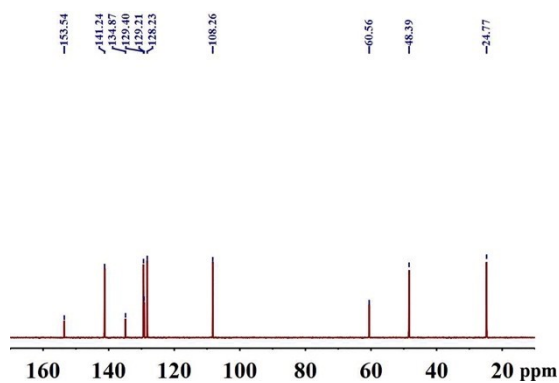


Figure S10. ¹³C NMR spectrum of **G** in D₂O (400 MHz).

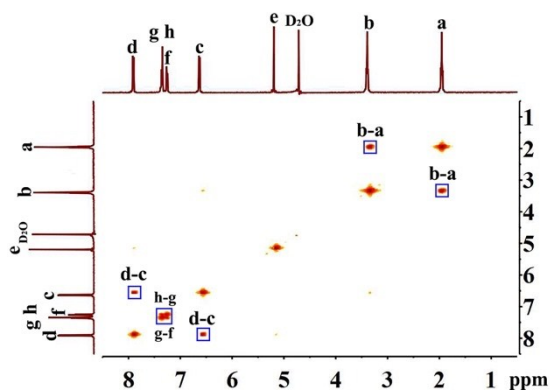


Figure S11. COSY spectrum of **G** in D₂O (400 MHz).

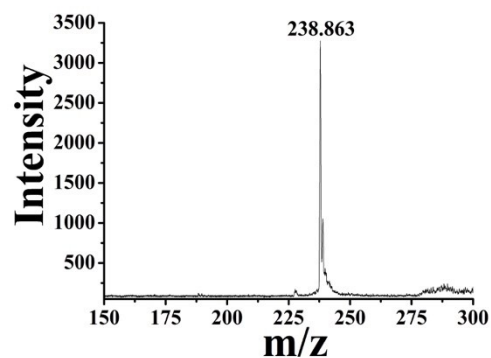


Figure S12. Mass spectrometry of **G** in H₂O.

References

- [1] W. Xu, J. Kan, B. Yang, T. J. Prior, B. Bian, X. Xiao, Z. Tao and C. Redshaw, *Chem. Asian J.* **2019**, *14*, 235–242.
- [2] B. Yang, X. Xiao, Y.-Q. Zhang, Q.-J. Zhu, S.-F. Xue, Z. Tao and G. Wei, *RSC Adv.*, **2014**, *4*, 44359-44366.